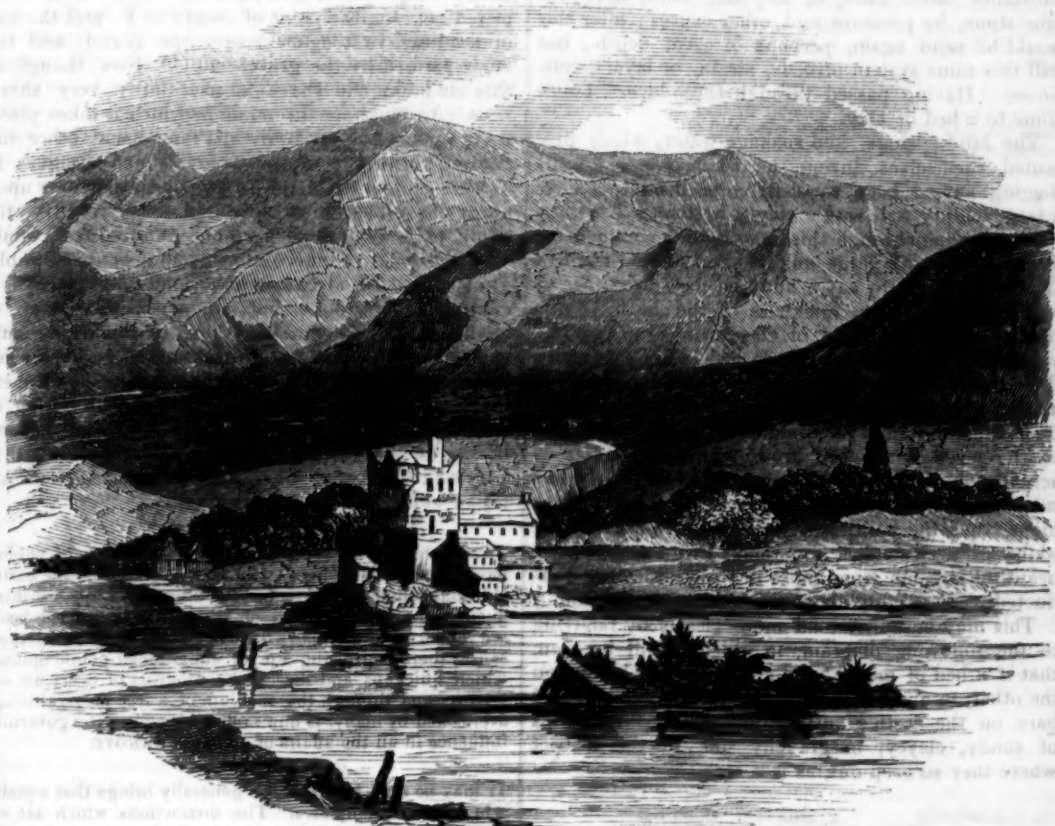




KILLARNEY. No. IV.



ROSS ISLAND AND CASTLE, KILLARNEY.

ROSS ISLAND AND CASTLE.

In rival contrast, lo, the expanded Isle  
Of Ross displays her military pile!  
Long since illustrious and the royal seat,  
As fame informs, of Donaghoe the Great.  
Renowned he was, and ranked with earliest kings,  
Nor disbelieve what hoar Tradition sings.  
The tale no guise of partial story wears,  
Strengthened by faith and sanctified by years,  
Killarney's prince; his wise, his gentle sway,  
Shall stand revered through Time's eternal day.  
Religion taught his heart, that crowns are given  
To serve mankind, and as a trust from heaven.  
Integrity his guide, he ne'er misused  
His power, and happiness to all diffused.

Ross Island is the largest of those contained in the Lower Lake. It is sometimes called a peninsula, for its separation from the main land is but partial. A morass occupies the intervening space, and is reduced to a narrow isthmus by inlets on each side. A small canal through this isthmus, just admitting the passage of a single boat, is the only separation between the island and the main land during the Summer, and even this sometimes disappears. In Winter the whole isthmus is overflowed, and Ross becomes then perfectly insulated.

The shape of this island is very irregular. It

stretches out for some distance from the eastern shore towards the middle of the lake, and then throws forward a projection to the northward. Thus there is formed between the island and the main land a bay, the head of which is bounded by the isthmus connecting them, and the mouth of which opens to the northward; this is called Ross Bay.

The common place of embarkation for strangers at Killarney is at the head of Ross Bay, at a quay under the walls of the castle; this being the nearest part of the lake to which there is a communication from the town by a carriage-road. From the town Ross Castle is about a mile and a half distant.

This castle is built upon a rock close to the water, and very near the bridge which connects the island with the main land. The remains of the old works present an imposing appearance; a lofty quadrilateral building, with embattled parapets, is yet to be seen in a perfect state, and at two of its corners are two round "flankers" in a ruined condition. Some plain buildings have been erected adjoining the castle, for the accommodation of the small garrison holding this military post in modern times. The castle itself, "a fine picturesque ivy-mantled ruin," forms a conspicuous feature in the landscape from almost every

part of the Lower Lake; but the regularity of the modern additions is said to be destructive of the picturesque effect of the ancient fabric. The office of governor of Ross Castle still subsists; but it is one of those appointments which are held as rewards for distinguished military service, to which no efficient military duty attaches, "and which are to be abolished on vacancies occurring, when rewards for distinguished military service will be granted in lieu thereof." The summit of this old castle affords an extensive and magnificent view.

Immediately in front (says Mr. Barrow,) is Ross Island, beautifully embellished with a mixture of oaks, ashes, firs, lindens, and splendid evergreens, the arbutus, yew, and the holly rising almost to the size of forest trees. On the right and left is spread out the broad expansive lake, with the finely-wooded island of Innisfallen, and on the opposite shore the lofty mountains of Tomies and Glenaa, with their wooded margins overhanging the waters of the lake, and their brown-heathy sides melting gradually into the stone-grey of their summits. On the right of these, and more distant in the west, are seen the lofty jagged rocks of Mac Gillieuddy; and in the south, the high round summit of Mangerton, a massy mountain of considerable height, but devoid of all picturesque beauty.

Ross Castle is said to have been built by a powerful sept, or tribe, of O'Donoghues; the name of O'Donoghoe-Ross was given to this family to distinguish it from that of O'Donoghoe-More. It was a place of strength in the time of Cromwell, and is celebrated for the obstinate resistance which it made to the attacks of the parliamentary army under General Ludlow, in the year 1652. Lord Muskerry, at the head of the Irish troops, having suffered a defeat in a battle fought at Knochliclady, in the county of Cork, on the 26th of July in that year, retreated to Ross Castle, whither he was followed by Ludlow, of whose proceedings, up to the surrender of the castle, we have the following account from his own pen.

In the mean time I was not wanting in my endeavours to reduce the enemy in Ireland, and to that end marched, with about four thousand foot and two thousand horse, towards Ross, in Kerry, where Lord Muskerry made his principal rendezvous, and which was the only place of strength the Irish had left, except the woods, bogs, and mountains, being a kind of island, encompassed on every part by water, except on one side, upon which there is a leg not passable but by a causeway, which the enemy had fortified. In this expedition I was accompanied by the Lords Broughill and Sir Hardress Waller, major-general of the foot. Being arrived at this place, I was informed that the enemy received continual supplies from those parts that lay on the other side, and were covered with woods and mountains; whereupon I sent a party of two thousand foot to clear these woods, and to find out some convenient place for the erecting a fort if there should be occasion. These forces met with some opposition, but at last they routed the enemy, killing some and taking others prisoners, the rest saved themselves by their good footmanship. Whilst this was doing, I employed that part of the army which was with me in fortifying a neck of land, where I designed to leave a party to keep in the Irish on this side, that I might be at liberty, with the greatest part of the horse and foot, to look after the enemy abroad, and to receive and convey such boats and other things necessary, as the commissioners sent us by sea. When we had received our boats, each of which was capable of containing one hundred and twenty men, I ordered one of them to be rowed about the water, in order to find out the most convenient place for landing upon the enemy, which they perceiving, thought fit, by a timely submission, to prevent the danger that threatened them, and having expressed their desires to that purpose, commissioners were appointed on both sides to treat. A fortnight was spent in debating upon the terms, but articles were finally signed, and hostages delivered on both sides, in consequence of which five thousand horse and foot laid down their arms and surrendered their horses.

The garrison of the castle was greatly intimidated

by the appearance of an armed vessel floating on the lake; for there was a prediction current amongst the inhabitants of the place, that the castle would not be taken until a vessel of war was seen to swim upon the bosom of its waters. Ludlow himself does not inform us by what means he contrived to have his boats conveyed to the lake from Castlemain, whither they had been forwarded by the parliamentary commissioners; but it is quite clear that they never could have been brought up without the greatest difficulty. The river Laune, which runs from Killarney to the sea, is much too shallow in its ordinary state, to float a boat capable of holding one hundred and twenty men; and when it is swollen by floods, and raised above its common level, its current acquires an impetuosity which it is impossible to overcome. Although Ludlow speaks of bringing the boats to the lake, as if the task had not been one of very uncommon labour or difficulty, it was deemed an event of sufficient importance to be thus noticed in a chronological table appended to Sir James Ware's Annals: "Ross, in the county of Kerry, a castle in an island, is yielded up to Lord Ludlow, after he had caused a small ship to be carried over the mountains, and set afloat in the lough, which terrified the enemy." Ludlow speaks of several boats. To have conveyed these over the mountains, covered as they then were with forest, and along roads that were probably little better than bridle-paths of the present day, must, as Mr. Weld observes, have been a most difficult and enterprising undertaking.

During the war between King William and James the Second, Ross Castle was held for the latter. In one of the "Military Articles" of Limerick, it was stipulated that the garrisons of Clare Castle, Ross, &c., should have the advantage of the capitulation; and that such part of those garrisons as designed to quit Ireland and go beyond seas, should march out "with their arms, baggage, drums beating, ball in mouth, match lighted at both ends, and colours flying, with all the provisions, and half the ammunition that is in the said garrisons."

There are several small islands at the mouth of Ross Bay; the most remarkable of them is a large rock of limestone, about twenty feet in height, on one side nearly perpendicular, and not unlike a wall. It is called O'Donoghoe's prison, and tradition says that it was used by the good and great prince of that name, as a place of confinement for those who disturbed the peace of his dominions; among the captives, the chieftain's own son has a place, and his confinement is often cited as a proof that his father's domestic administration was not devoid of necessary rigour, because it was generally mild.

On Ross Island is the most ancient mine in Ireland; it is situated in the south part of the island. Its remote antiquity is established by a discovery made on clearing out the old shafts, when it was reopened a few years ago; at that time, several rude implements of stone were found buried under decayed vegetable matter and rubbish, the accumulation of many centuries. These were principally stones of an oblong-spheroidal shape, which appear to have been used as hammers for breaking the ore; the ends are in general much battered, and there is a slight indentation visible, obviously intended to confine the ligaments by which the handles were fastened to the stones. Two or three of these relics fell into the possession of Mr. Crofton Croker; their construction, he says, is so barbarous, that it is evident with such tools, the process of mining must have been very slow, as well as laborious. Appearances led to the supposition, that the workmen used to endeavour to

facilitate their operations, by kindling large fires on the limestone, of which this, as well as the other islands on the Lower Lake is composed, and so reducing it to a caustic state; the timber in the immediate vicinity was most probably the fuel used for this purpose. Marks of the fires were distinctly to be seen when the rock was exposed to view; and these, together with the stone implements discovered, were regarded as affording satisfactory evidence, that the mine had been worked at a period prior to the knowledge of either iron or gunpowder. Local tradition has attributed these primitive operations to the Danes; and the country people call the stone hammers, "Dane hammers."

It is supposed that this mine was opened, if not worked, in the reign of James the First, as some coins of that monarch were found in another part of the mine. At the beginning of the present century it had lain for a long time totally neglected; when, in the year 1804, a Cornish gentleman, who had previously examined it from curiosity, while quartered with his regiment at Killarney, induced a few persons in the vicinity to join him in re-opening it. A small company was thus formed, and a capital raised upon shares. No attempts were made to draw off the water from that part of the mine with which the old shafts communicated, which would probably have been a hazardous speculation. The first efforts of the adventurers were solely directed to draining a narrow, oblong pit, which appeared to have been formerly opened with the view of following a vein of ore near the lake. Having succeeded in clearing out the water and rubbish, they discovered at the bottom of the pit a rich bed of ore; encouraged by this flattering appearance, they proceeded to work it on rather an extensive scale, and succeeded in obtaining the metal with great facility. Its situation was, however, very unfavourable, it being close to the lake, and the ground not rising much above it, so that in a short time the workmen had excavated completely under the lake, with a very fair chance of the water's breaking upon them. But the richness and abundance of the ore, were sufficient to induce a disregard of danger; during the four years that Ross mine was worked, nearly 80,000*l.* worth of copper was disposed of at Swansea, some cargoes producing forty pounds per ton. This very richness eventually caused the destruction of the mine. Several small veins, of very valuable ore, were found to branch off from the main load, and run towards the surface; the miners, who were paid by quality as well as quantity, pursued these smaller veins too far; thus the water broke through, and in such quantities, that an engine of thirty-horse power could make no sensible impression on the inundation.

Before this attempt was made to work Ross mine, several speculators had been attracted thither by the reports which they had heard of the richness of the ore. Mr Weld mentions an amusing project which was formed by one of them.

I happened one day (he says) to be present whilst two of the people, rough Lancashire men, were examining the old works. They soon formed a judgment, and at once relinquished the idea of engaging in the enterprise, but the spirit of speculation was active in their minds. Casting their eyes around, they suddenly conceived the project of draining the lake, and began vauntingly to declare, *what a deal of land* they could add to the possessions of Lord Kenmare, were he to employ them in such an undertaking. I know not whether they would have laid their proposals seriously before his lordship, had they been allowed to proceed with their calculations; but such an outcry was instantly raised against them by the surrounding peasants and by the boatmen, whose pride and interest were both alarmed at the idea of the lake being converted

into dry land, that the poor frightened engineers were well pleased to relinquish their golden dreams; and to obtain immediate safety by a precipitate retreat.

At a short distance from the Ross mine, and about the centre of the island, is a quarry of marble, generally of a pale ash colour, streaked with red and white veins. A considerable quantity is annually raised, and it is used to some extent for hearths and chimney pieces throughout the adjacent district. But its principal consumption is for tomb-stones; the peasantry seldom omit to place one of these memorials over the remains of their relatives, and sometimes they will journey twenty miles across the mountains, to Killarney, to purchase it, although, apparently, they are but ill able to bear the expence.

#### THE STARS.

On 'tis lovely to watch ye at twilight rise,  
When the evening shadows have left the skies;  
Or the sun has gone down like a king to rest,  
In the palace-halls of the golden west;  
Or the first pale star in the western sky,  
Calls ye forth to the midnight's solemnity.

Earth! hails your light in the loveliest hour,  
When the dew like a spirit hangs over each flower,  
When the glens lie hushed and the woods are still,  
And the Naiad heareth the fountain's thrill,  
And the low wind waileth her anthem-hymn  
In the ear of the night's young cherubim.

And oh! the bright visions ye see from heaven!  
The earth's blue shade in the gloom of even,  
The red sea's wave as it rolleth on,  
In the gleam of the sunset's horizon;  
And the beautiful hues of the rainbow air;  
And the spirits, like ye, that are wandering there.

Yet oh! there are more,—from the sunset dells  
Ye harken the chime of sweet vesper bells,  
And the shepherd's hymn, and the mother's prayer,  
Ye hear through the hush of the midnight air,  
And the dove's soft note in the solemn woods,  
And eve's low moan in the solitudes.

Yet have ye a spell and a solemn power,  
To guard the earth at the midnight's hour;  
To watch o'er the slumbering homes of men,  
—O'er the lamp that lighteth the student's pen;  
O'er the peasant's roof, and the monarch's throne,  
Over all that beauty hath made your own.

Ye pass in your glory o'er land and sea;  
Ye ride through the heavens triumphantly;  
O'er the boundless hills of immortal space,  
Ye speed in the joy of your chariot-race;  
And the sunset's beam, and the moonlight's ray,  
Are the paths that ye tread to the shores of day.

And oh! do ye gaze on that shining land,  
Where seraph and spirit for ever stand?  
A white-robed choir round the golden throne,  
With harp, and with hymn, and with orison,  
Sounding for ever their anthem cry,  
Through the hush of the midnight's immensity!

—Ye are mystic and holy!—ye may not tell  
Of that land where the spirits of Eden dwell;  
Ye may not give to the winds of the earth,  
The seraph voices that hailed your birth;  
Round the awful throne where ye bend and bless  
The spirit that called ye to loveliness!

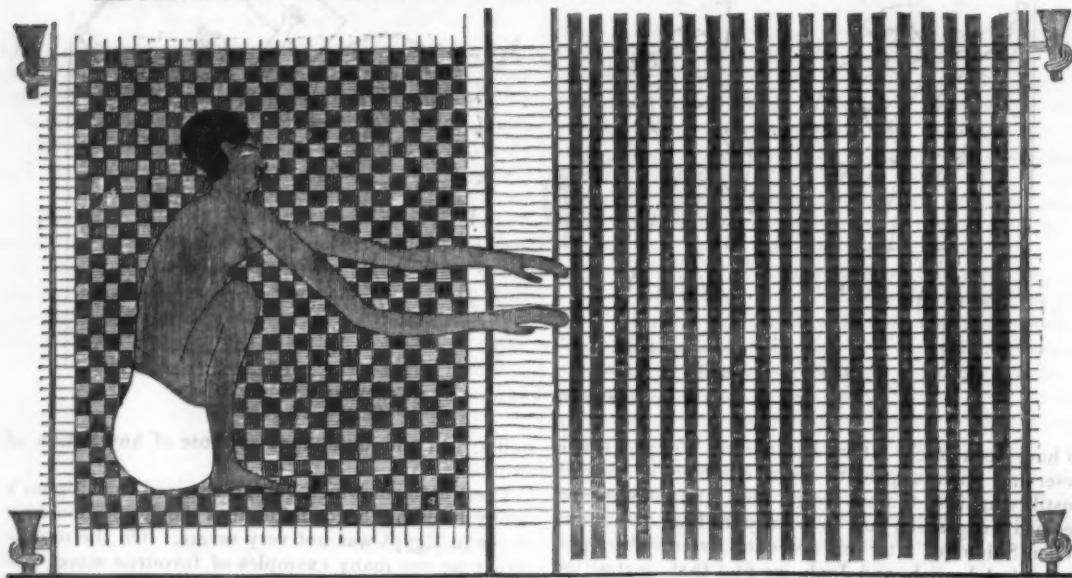
But lo! the deep glory of night goes by,  
And the moon wanes low in the western sky;  
And the beautiful spirit whose silver wings  
Gave songs to the night from a thousand strings;  
Has peeled o'er the waves of the dark deep sea,  
Your dirge through the heaven's infinity!

Yet again ye will come in the eve's dark hours,  
With dew, to refreshen the folding flowers;  
With balm on your wings for the wounded breast,  
And hope for the mourner that finds no rest;  
And joy for the spirit that waits afar  
For the heaven that shineth in one night star!

F. S. M. in FULCHER'S *Poetical Miscellany*.  
345—2



## ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE BIBLE FROM THE MONUMENTS OF ANTIQUITY.



WEAVING CLOTH OF DIVERS COLOURS.

## No. III. THE HISTORY OF JOSEPH.

THE Biblical history between the death of Abraham and the birth of Joseph, records incidents almost exclusively belonging to pastoral life, but our attention is directed to the state of the social arts by the present which the patriarch Jacob made to his favourite son, he gave him "a coat of many colours." (Gen. xxxvii. 3.) From the monuments we find that the art of weaving had been brought to great perfection among the ancient Egyptians; we find even some approach to a factory system; the spinners are depicted in groupes, they perform their tasks under the superintendence of an overseer, and the division of labour is so far complete that each part of the process gives employment to a peculiar set of operatives. But it is doubtful whether the variegated vesture which excited the envy of Joseph's brethren was woven of divers colours, or whether it was embroidered with patches or needle-work. From the above engraving we find that the Egyptians were acquainted with the art of interweaving colours in chequers like the Scottish plaids.

The frame of the loom is fastened to the ground by four posts or pegs, and the threads appear to be drawn through by the hand, not shot with the shuttle. The labour must consequently have been tedious and the work expensive; indeed, we find that even in the time of David the wearing of such robes was one of the privileges of royal birth, for the sacred historian says of Tamar, "She had a garment of divers colours upon her; for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled." (2 Sam. xiii. 18.) But embroidered robes were also used; their costly preparation was a favourite employment with ladies of rank, and they were bestowed as marks of honour upon princes and conquerors. In that beautiful passage of Deborah's triumphal ode, describing the conduct of Sisera's mother, we find an example of the great importance attached to these ornamental garments. "The mother of Sisera looked out at a window and cried through the lattice, Why is his chariot so long in coming, why tarry the wheels of his chariots? Her wise ladies answered her, yea, she returned answer to herself. Have they not sped? have they not divided the prey, to every man a damsel

or two; to Sisera a prey of divers colours, a prey of divers colours of needle-work, of needle-work on both sides meet for the necks of them that take the spoil." (Gen. v. 28—30.) Here the repetition of "divers colours" is a clear proof of the value attributed to such vestures, and an intimation that they were regarded as ensigns of dignity and evidences of rank.

The envy of Joseph's brethren appears then to have been excited not merely by the superior beauty of his dress, but by his being invested with authority over his brethren, of which the ornamented garment was the outward sign. Even at this day Eastern potentates, when they confer office upon a favourite, present him also with a dress of honour as a symbol of his rank.

Joseph was sold by his brethren to a company of Ishmaelites and Midianites who were conveying a caravan of merchandize to Egypt. It seems probable that the Egyptians themselves did not engage in the carrying trade; they abandoned it to the wandering tribes on their eastern and southern frontiers, whose caravans brought them the produce of distant lands; we know that at a later period they allowed the Phœnicians, and afterwards the Greeks, to monopolize the Mediterranean trade, they were themselves a manufacturing but not a commercial people. The monuments confirm the Scriptural account of the carrying-trade with Egypt being in the hands of foreigners, for among all the various occupations depicted on the tombs, we have not seen one in which a native Egyptian can be identified as a travelling merchant. We find that slaves were commonly imported into Egypt by the caravans, troops of these unfortunate beings are depicted driven like cattle to the market, and it is further remarkable as a confirmation of the Scriptural narrative, that many of the slaves represented are of the light colour used in depicting the natives of Syria and Arabia.

Joseph was sold "unto Potiphar; an officer of Pharaoh's and captain of the guard." (Gen. xxxvii. 36.) In the original Hebrew, Potiphar is called "chief of the slaughterers or executioners," an office in the East by no means inconsistent with his dignity of field-marshal. The punishment of death seems



EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS OF VARIOUS DESCRIPTIONS.

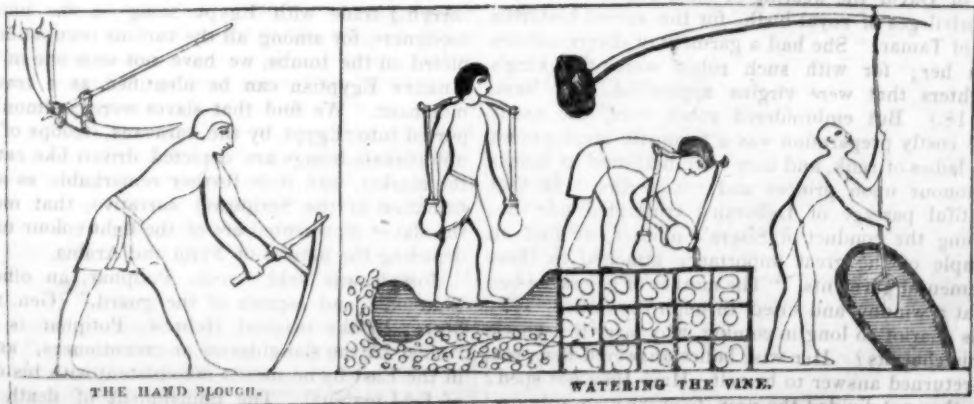
to have been rarely inflicted in ancient Egypt, crimes deserving such a penalty were regarded as acts of hostility against the sovereign, and thus it was not deemed a degrading task to destroy the king's enemies. When Solomon, after his accession, resolved to put to death Adonijah and Joab, we find that, instead of employing a common executioner, he entrusted the office to Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, a man of high rank, for he succeeded Joab as commander-in-chief of the royal army. We see on the monuments captives put to death by officers of high dignity, a singular confirmation of a custom which, if it had not been supported by such an accumulation of unquestionable testimony, our habits and prejudices would have led us to reject as incredible.

Potiphar is also described as "captain of the guard;" this is the first recorded account of a standing army, and we are led to enquire how such an institution became necessary in ancient Egypt. The fragments of Manetho's Egyptian history, preserved by Josephus, inform us that the Egyptians were exposed to predatory incursions from the wandering tribes who possessed Western Asia. One body of these, known to historians under the name of Hycsos, or shepherd kings, succeeded in overrunning the country, and twice established a kingdom in the lower valley of the Nile. We shall find, as we advance, good reason to believe that Joseph's entrance into Egypt took place in the interval between the first and second invasion of the Hycsos, and that the Pharaoh who oppressed the Israelites belonged to the second dynasty of the intruders. The necessity of constantly guarding the frontiers against these plunderers compelled the Egyptians to maintain a regular army, and their soldiers appear to have been as

well armed and disciplined as those of any nation of antiquity.

The treatment which Joseph received in Potiphar's family leads us to conclude that the lot of domestic slaves in Egypt was not very severe. On the monuments we see many examples of favourite slaves enjoying considerable indulgence, and a degree of freedom which is highly creditable to the Egyptian character. Diodorus Siculus informs us that, by the Egyptian law, a master had no power over the life of his slave, and we find this illustrated in the Scripture narrative, for though Potiphar held a high rank in Pharaoh's court, he could not punish the perfidy and ingratitude of which he believed Joseph guilty, but was obliged to deliver him over to the justice of the king. Now the pastoral race to which the Israelites belonged showed no such tenderness for human life, neither, indeed, did the Egyptians themselves after they had been subdued by the Persians. We have, consequently, in this incident, a singular proof of the veracity of the book of Genesis, for the conduct described by the sacred historian, the equitable treatment of slaves, belonged to no other eastern nation, and, in process of time, was neglected by the Egyptians themselves.

From the Psalms we learn that Joseph's confinement was at first very rigid. "They set his feet fast in the stocks, the iron entered into his soul." (Psalm cv. 18.) Numerous monuments exist of the severity with which prisoners were treated in ancient times; "but the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and gave him favour in sight of the keeper of the prison." (Gen. xxxix. 21.) He soon had two companions, the chief butler, and the chief baker. It is a proof of the advanced state of civilization in



THE HAND PLOUGH.

WATERING THE VINE.

Egypt that these offenders were not instantly put to death, but merely imprisoned, so as to give time for investigation of the crimes laid to their charge. The representations on the monuments confirm this equitable character of the Egyptian kings, so unlike the conduct of other oriental sovereigns; we find even the best of the Jewish monarchs hasty in pronouncing sentence of death, and speedy in enforcing its execution, and this adds another unsuspicious evidence to the historical accuracy of the Pentateuch.

The butler and baker in the ancient eastern courts were officers of great rank and trust; poison was so often employed to remove an obnoxious sovereign, that every precaution was necessary to guard against it. The dreams of both these functionaries refer to their respective occupations, and we shall find that they are described with great minuteness.

"The chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold a vine was before me. And in the vine were three branches; and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth, and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes. And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand." (Gen. xl. 9, 10, 11.) The vine grows naturally in Egypt, only in a few high-lying districts; its artificial cultivation required extraordinary care and attention: it was trained over trellises, watched carefully by the gardeners, and regularly watered, while most other productions of horticulture required little more labour than the ordinary operations of farming.

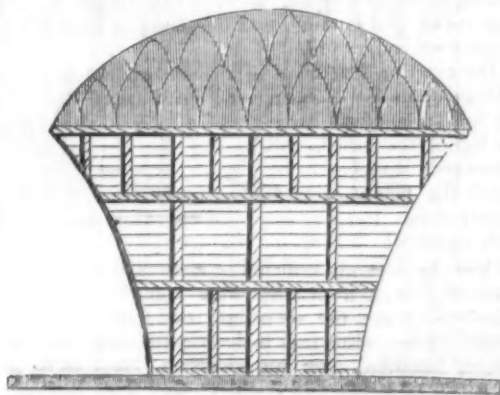
Before passing from this engraving, which shows how carefully the vine was trained and watered, we may remark that the simple apparatus for raising water employed by the figure to the right is still used at the present day. It is simply a rude lever; the stone at one end is sufficiently heavy to raise the full bucket suspended at the other, and the labour of the person who draws the water is confined to pulling down the bucket when empty. The compartment to the left illustrates the difference between the hand-plough and the yoke-plough, of which we have spoken in a preceding number. The vine springing over the trellis appears to be as luxuriant as that which Pharaoh's butler beheld in his dream.

The butler informs us that he extracted the juice by simply pressing the grapes in his hand. But though this process may have been occasionally used, the grapes were generally trodden out by the foot,—a custom to which frequent allusions are made in Scripture, and to which we shall on a future occasion direct the reader's attention.

It is scarcely necessary to mention that the presentation of the cup to Pharaoh would have been a clear proof that the butler was fully restored to favour. We may, however, notice that the Egyptian vases were of surpassing beauty, and that they fully rival those of the Greeks and the Etruscans in loveliness of form, while they far surpass them in variety\*.

We must now come to the second dream. "And when the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold I had three white baskets on my head; and in the uppermost basket there was all manner of bake-meats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the baskets upon my head." (Gen. xl. 16, 17.) The baskets which are here mentioned occur frequently upon the monuments. It would seem that most cooking operations were originally performed by baking, as is still the case in some of the islands of the South Sea; when thus prepared they were brought

to table in trays and baskets of exquisite workmanship, and ranged so as to make a tasteful exhibition. We shall see, hereafter, that this display of the viands at a banquet was extended also to religious offerings, as, for instance, the Jewish custom of placing shew-bread on the altars, which was manifestly derived from the Egyptians. Some of the baskets were plain wicker-work, as in the accompanying engraving;



others were formed of gold and silver, exquisitely wrought. We find these baskets frequently carried on the head as described by the chief baker; there was manifestly great care taken to teach the servants who performed this duty to walk steadily and gracefully under their burdens. It must be added that the baskets are rarely covered, so that the birds might easily have attacked the viands in the manner described by the dreamer, especially as the establishments of the domestics were separated by a court from the royal apartments of the palace. It is by no means unusual in Persia to see pillaus and pastry sent to a considerable distance in baskets on men's heads, and the rice round the pillaus is so closely compressed that they retain their heat during the journey.

From Joseph's interpretation of the dream, it appears that criminals were beheaded before their bodies were exposed on a gibbet. "Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee." (Gen. xl. 20.) We see frequent examples of the beheading of captives on the monuments, but no instance of hanging. Such a punishment must have been reserved only for the most atrocious criminals, because no superstitions of the Egyptians were more remarkable than those connected with the reverential care of the dead.

We have now gone through the private history of Joseph previous to his being raised to the dignity of prime-minister and virtual ruler of the land of Egypt, and we have found that circumstances apparently the most trivial and minute in the narrative, are confirmed in every particular by the representations of manners and customs still existing on the temples and tombs. No history in the world, indeed, is supported by such cogent evidence as this, the most ancient and most venerable. In fact, we may be said to have as abundant corroborations of the truth of Joseph's history as of the reigns of the English queens Mary and Elizabeth.

PREJUDICE may be considered as a continual false medium of viewing things, for prejudiced persons not only never speak well, but also never think well, of those whom they dislike, and the whole character and conduct is considered with an eye to that particular thing which offends them.—  
BUTLER.



## SIR WALTER SCOTT'S VISIT TO THE CAVE UAMH SMOWE.

WENT off before eight A.M. to breakfast with our friend Mr. Anderson. After breakfast took the long boat, and under Mr. Anderson's pilotage, rowed to see a remarkable natural curiosity, called Uamh Smowe, or the Largest Cave. After rowing about three miles to the westward of the entrance from the sea to Loch Eribol, we enter a creek, between two ledges of very high rocks, and landing, find ourselves in front of the wonder we came to see.

The exterior apartment of the cavern opens under a tremendous rock, facing the creek, and occupies the full space of the ravine where we landed. From the top of the rock to the base of the cavern, as we afterwards discovered by plumb, is eighty feet, of which the height is fifty-three feet: the rest, being twenty-seven feet, is occupied by the precipitous rock under which it opens; the width is fully in proportion to this great height, being 110 feet. The depth of this exterior cavern is 200 feet, and it is apparently supported by an intermediate column of natural rock. Being open to daylight and the sea air, the cavern is perfectly clean and dry, and the sides are incrustated with stalactites. This immense cavern is so well-proportioned, that I was not aware of its extraordinary height and extent, till I saw our two friends, who had somewhat preceded us, having made the journey by land, appearing like pigmies among its recesses. Afterwards, on entering the cave, I climbed up a sloping rock at its extremity, and was much struck with the prospect, looking outward from this magnificent arched cavern upon our boat and its crew, the view being otherwise bounded by the ledge of rocks which formed each side of the creek.

We now propose to investigate the further wonders of the Cave of Smowe. In the right or west side of the cave opens an interior cavern of a different aspect. The height of this second passage may be about twelve or fourteen feet, and its breadth about six or eight, naturally and neatly formed into a Gothic portal. The lower part of this porch is closed by a ledge of rock, rising to the height of between five or six feet, and which I can compare to nothing but to the hatch-door of a shop. Between this hatch a brook finds its way out, forms a black deep pool before the Gothic archway, and then escapes to the sea, forming the creek in which we landed. It is somewhat difficult to approach this strange pass, so as to gain a view into the interior of the cavern. By clambering along a broken and dangerous cliff, you can, however, look into it; but only so far as to see a twilight space filled with dark-coloured water in great agitation, and representing a subterranean lake, moved by some fearful convulsion of nature. How this pond is supplied with water you cannot see even from this point of vantage, but you are made partly sensible of the truth by a sound like the dashing of a sullen cataract within the bowels of the earth. Here the adventure has usually been abandoned, and Mr. Anderson mentioned only two travellers whose curiosity had led them further. We were resolved, however, to see the adventures of this cave to an end. Duff had already secured the use of a fisher's boat and its hands, our own log-boat being too heavy and far too valuable to be ventured. Accordingly the skiff was dragged up the brook to the rocky ledge or hatch which barred up the interior cavern, and then, by force of hands, our boat's crew and two or three fishers first raised the boat's bow upon the ledge of rock, then brought her to a level, being

poised upon that narrow hatch, and, lastly, launched her down into the dark and deep subterranean lake within. The entrance was so narrow, and the boat so clumsy, that we, who were all this while clinging to the rock like sea-fowl, and with scarcely more secure footing, were greatly alarmed for the safety of our trusty sailors. At the instant when the boat sloped inward to the cave, a Highlander threw himself into it with great boldness and dexterity, and, at the expense of some bruises, shared its precipitate fall into the waters under the earth. This dangerous exploit was to prevent the boat drifting away from us, but a cord at its stern would have been a safer and surer expedient.

When the man had recovered his breath and legs, he brought the boat back to the entrance, and took us in. We now found ourselves embarked on a deep black pond of an irregular form, the rocks rising like a dome all around us, and high over our heads. The light, a sort of dubious twilight, was derived from two chasms in the roof of the vault, for that offered by the entrance was but trifling. Down one of those rents there poured from the height of eighty feet, in a sheet of foam, the brook, which, after supplying the subterranean pond with water, finds its way out beneath the ledge of rock that blocks its entrance. The other sky-light, if I may so term it, looks out at the clear blue sky. It is impossible for description to explain the impression made by so strange a place to which we had been conveyed with so much difficulty. The cave itself, the pool, the cataract, would have been each separate objects of wonder, but all united together, and affecting at once the ear, the eye, and the imagination, their effect is indescribable. The length of this pond, or loch, as the people here call it, is seventy feet over, the breadth about thirty at the narrowest point, and it is of great depth.

As we resolved to proceed, we directed the boat to a natural arch on the right hand, or west side of the cataract. This archway was double, a high arch being placed above a very low one, as in a Roman aqueduct. The ledge of rock which forms this lower arch is not above two feet and a half above the water, and under this we were to pass in the boat; so that we were fain to pile ourselves flat upon each other like a layer of herrings. By this judicious disposition we were pushed in safety beneath this low-browed rock into a region of utter darkness. For this, however, we were provided, for we had a tinder-box and lights. The view back upon the twilight lake we had crossed, its sullen eddies wheeling round and round, and its echoes resounding to the ceaseless thunder of the waterfall, seemed dismal enough, and was aggravated by temporary darkness, and in some degree by a sense of danger. The lights, however, dispelled the latter sensation, if it prevailed to any extent, and we now found ourselves in a narrow cavern sloping somewhat upward from the water. We got out of the boat, proceeded along some slippery places upon shelves of the rock, and gained the dry land. I cannot say dry, excepting comparatively. We were then in an arched cave, twelve feet high in the roof, and about eight feet in breadth, which went winding into the bowels of the earth for about an hundred feet. The sides, being (like those of the whole cavern,) of limestone rock, were covered with stalactites, and with small drops of water like dew, glancing like ten thousand thousand sets of birthday diamonds under the glare of our lights. In some places these stalactites branch out into broad and curious ramifications, resembling coral and the foliage of submarine plants.

When we reached the extremity of this passage

we found it declined suddenly to a horrible gulf, or well, filled with dark water, and of great depth, over which the rock closed. We threw in stones, which indicated great profundity by their sound; and growing more familiar with the horrors of this den, we sounded with an oar, and found about ten feet depth at the entrance, but discovered, in the same manner, that the gulf extended under the rock, deepening as it went, we knew not how far. Imagination can figure few deaths more horrible, than to be sucked under these rocks into some unfathomable abyss, where your corpse could never be found to give intimation of your fate. A water kelpy, or an evil spirit of any aquatic propensities, could not choose a fitter abode; and to say the truth, I believe at our first entrance, and when all our feelings were afloat at the novelty of the scene, the unexpected splashing of a seal would have routed the whole dozen of us. The mouth of this ugly gulf was all covered with slimy alluvial substances, which led Mr. Stevenson to observe, that it could have no separate source, but must be fed from the waters of the outer lake and brook, as it lay upon the same level, and seemed to rise and fall with them, without having anything to indicate a separate current of its own. Rounding this perilous hole, or gulf, upon the aforesaid alluvial substances, which formed its shores, we reached the extremity of the cavern, which there ascends, like a funnel, directly up a sloping precipice, but hideously black and slippery from wet and seaweeds. One of our sailors, a Zetlander, climbed up a good way, and by holding up a light, we could plainly perceive that this vent closed, after ascending to a considerable height; and here, therefore, closed the adventure of the Cave of Smowe, for it appeared utterly impossible to proceed further in any direction whatever. There is a tradition, that the first Lord Reay went through various subterranean abysses, and at length returned, after ineffectually endeavouring to penetrate to the extremity of the Smowe Cave; but this must be either fabulous, or an exaggerated account of such a journey as we performed. And under the latter supposition, it is a curious instance how little the people in the neighbourhood of this curiosity have cared to examine it.

On returning, we endeavoured to familiarize ourselves with the objects in detail, which, viewed together, had struck us with so much wonder. The stalactites, or limy incrustations, upon the walls of the cavern, are chiefly of a dark-brown colour, and, in this respect, Smowe is inferior, according to Mr. Stevenson, to the celebrated cave of Macallister, in the Isle of Skye. In returning, the men with the lights, and the various groups and attitudes of the party, gave a good deal of amusement. We now ventured to clamber along the side of the rock above the subterranean water, and thus gained the upper arch, and had the satisfaction to see our admirable and good-humoured commodore, Hamilton, floated beneath the lower arch into the second cavern.

Descending from our superior station on this upper arch, we now again embarked, and spent some time in rowing about and examining this second cave. We could see our dusky entrance, into which daylight streamed faint, and at a considerable distance; and under the arch of the outer cavern stood a sailor, with an oar in his hand, looking, in the perspective, like a fairy with his wand. We at length emerged unwillingly from this extraordinary basin, and again enjoyed ourselves in the large exterior cave. Our boat was hoisted with some difficulty over the ledge, which appears the natural barrier of the interior apartments, and restored in safety to the fishers, who

were perfectly gratified for the hazard which their skiff, as well as one of themselves, had endured.

After this we resolved to ascend the rocks, and discover the opening by which the cascade was discharged from above into the second cave. Erskine and I, by some chance, took the wrong side of the rocks, and after some scrambling, got into the face of a dangerous precipice, where Erskine, to my great alarm, turned giddy, and declared he could not go further. I clambered up without much difficulty, and shouting to the people below, got two of them to assist him, by means of a rope. We easily found the brook, and traced its descent till it precipitates itself down a chasm of the rock into the subterranean apartment where we first made our acquaintance. Divided by a natural arch of stone from the chasm down which the cascade falls, there is another vent, which serves as skylight to the cavern, as I already noticed. Standing on a natural foot-bridge, formed by the arch which divides these two gulfs, you have a grand prospect into both. The one is deep, black, and silent, only affording at the bottom a glimpse of the dark and sullen pool which occupies the interior of the cavern. The right-hand vent, down which the stream discharges itself, seems to ring and reel with the unceasing roar of the cataract which envelopes its side in mist and foam. This part of the scene alone is worth a day's journey. After heavy rains, the torrent is discharged into this cavern with astonishing violence; and the size of the chasm being inadequate to the reception of such a volume of water, it is thrown up in spouts like the blowing of a whale. But at such times the entrance of the cavern is inaccessible. Taking leave of this scene with regret, we rowed back to Loch Eribol.

[LOCKHART'S *Life of Sir Walter Scott*.]

## CONVERSATION. No. II.

THERE are certain epochs of conversation traceable in the different stages of society. In the most barbarous times, war, the chase, and supernatural appearances, are the usual characteristics of it. To a more advanced stage, fables of love adventures, and the ruder kind of poetry; and to supply the defects of talk, bards are called in to recite their verses, and fools to supply jests, and furnish a subject for them. To a still further advanced stage, during the struggles of despotism and liberty, politics form a ruling topic.

In the most refined state, when the government is settled, and when industry and opulence have generated luxurious habits, and an improved cultivation of mind, the arts, theatres, new romances, and poetry, and finally, the sciences, philosophy, and religious truths, are found to be the reigning subjects of conversation.

Proverbs, puns, rebuses, charades, so common fifty years ago, are now expelled from polite society.—*Essays on Conversation and on Quackery.*

THE difference of the degrees in which the individuals of a great community enjoy the good things of life, has been a theme of discontent in all ages; and it is doubtless our paramount duty, in every state of society, to alleviate the pressure of the purely evil part of this distribution, as much as possible, and, by all the means he can devise, secure the lower links in the chain of society from dragging in dishonour and wretchedness.—SIR JOHN HERSCHEL.

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